

SOME LOCAL PLANTS OF VIRGINIA

F. W. HUNNEWELL

THE Shenandoah Valley today is too well cultivated and given up to farms and orchards to make it especially inviting ground for a botanist. But occasionally there are places where the underlying limestone comes to the surface making the ground too rough and rocky for the farmer. This is so where Cedar Creek crosses the main highway, the Valley "Pike," about thirteen miles south of Winchester in Frederick County, the northwesternmost county in Virginia.

On the north bank of this creek are a series of low rocky, wooded hills, in places with almost precipitous cliffs of limestone rising one hundred feet above the edge of the stream. Here on October 19, 1864 was fought the Battle of Cedar Creek, these hills having been fortified by the Union army and still plainly showing the old line of trenches.

In the early spring the banks of the creek present a beautiful sight with trilliums, *Mertensia virginica* and *Delphinium tricorne*, while higher up the hillsides are covered with *Cercis canadensis* and *Cornus florida*. It is along the dry rocky tops of these hills that I have found some plants which I think may be worth recording.

In several places growing beneath the pines, and giving much the same effect as *Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi* in our New England woods are large patches of *Pachystima Canbyi* Gray. How common this is in Virginia I do not know. In Gray's Manual its range is given as "Mts. of s. Va. and W. Va." and the only specimens in the Gray Herbarium are from Wythe and Giles counties in the southern part of the state and about 170 miles to the southwest. Scattered through these woods is also growing *Parthenium auriculatum* Britton, described by him in the first edition of his "Illustrated Flora" as from the "Mts. of Virginia." In general appearance it is quite distinct from *P. integrifolium* L. and resembles more closely *P. repens* Eggert of Missouri and Kansas, but differs from the latter in having a thick tuberous root.

A third plant is *Astragalus distortus* T. & G. which I believe has not been recorded before from Virginia. This is a plant of the Mississippi valley, west to Texas, the only other recorded station in the East being Moorefield in Hardy County, West Virginia, the adjoining county on the other side of the mountains. A thorough

search revealed only a few plants, all growing in dry sunny places among the limestone rocks.

“BELLE GROVE,” MEADOW MILLS, VIRGINIA.

Vol. 31, no. 371, including pages 221 to 244 and plate 191, was issued 4 November, 1929.